Kerala in September, 1997. The Project envisages eradication of coconut palms affected by advanced stage root-wilt disease in order to check the spread of the disease and improve the productivity of existing palms. Most of the measures suggested *viz.* cutting and removal of root-wilt affected palms; productivity improvement; inter-cropping/mixed farming; irrigation facilities; support for harvesting and value-addition etc. are already being supported under different programmes of the Coconut Development Board (CDB).

During 1997-98, out of a total outlay of Rs. 20.00 crore for various coconut development programmes, the CDB released Rs. 12.44 crore to the State of Kerala. During 1998-99, a sum of Rs. 12.38 crore was released. The allocation for the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 9.27 crores. During the period 1987-88 to 1998-99, 13.88 lakh root-wilt affected palms were removed, for which an amount of Rs. 20.31 crores was spent by the CDB as payment of compensation.

Suction Dredgers for Bhavanapedu Fishing Harbour

915. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to accede to the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to deploy suction dredgers received from Japan for dredging at Bhavanapedu Fishing Harbour to enable big ships and fish trawlers to enter the port; and

(b) the measures taken to comply with the request made in March 1999?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Based on the request of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, the trailing Suction Hopper Dredger, TSD Sindhuraj has been deployed at Bhavanapadu Fishing Harbour in Andhra Pradesh for maintenance dredging.

Subsidy for Food Processing Industries

916. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether subsidy and other facilities are granted for the entrepreneur to set up food processing industry;